

JASON AARON • CLIFF CHIANG

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES



3
IDW
25
YEARS

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES



RETURN TO NEW YORK PART THREE:

THE WAY OF THE GANGES MUD TURTLE

SCRIPT BY JASON AARON ART BY CLIFF CHIANG

LETTERS BY SHAWN LEE

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: NICOLAS NIÑO DESIGN BY NATHAN WIDICK

EDITORS: JAMIE S. RICH & MAGGIE HOWELL

nickelodeon

IDW

@IDWpublishing
IDWpublishing.com

THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
CREATED BY KEVIN EASTMAN & PETER LAIRD

Special thanks to Amy Jarashow, Russ Spina, and Jeff Whitman for their invaluable assistance.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (2024) #3. OCTOBER 2024. © 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and all related titles, logos, and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman. IDW Legacy Numbering: TMNT #153. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 14144 Ventura Blvd., Suite 210, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. David Jonas, CEO • Andrew DeBaker, CFO • Gregg Katz, General Counsel • Mark Doyle, Publisher • Tara McCrillis, President Publishing Operations • Sean Brice, Sr. Director Sales • Aub Driver, Director of Marketing • Gregg Katzman, Sr. Manager Public Relations • Warren Buchanan, Licensing Manager • Lauren LePera, Sr. Managing Editor • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Director Publishing Operations Ryan Balkam, Direct Market Sales • Nathan Widick, Director of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders.

IT IS SAID BY SOME
THAT ONE'S LIFE IS
FOREVER INCOMPLETE
UNTIL YOU'VE BATHED
AT LEAST ONCE IN THE
GANGES RIVER.

IT IS SAID THAT
THESE SACRED
WATERS BRING
SALVATION.

I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR
NINE MONTHS, LIVING
ON THESE SHORES.

SALVATION HAS
NOT FOUND ME.

BUT SOMETHING
ELSE HAS.

9 MONTHS EARLIER.

EVERY DAY IN INDIA,
FUNERALS ARE HELD
ALONG THE BANKS
OF THE GANGES.

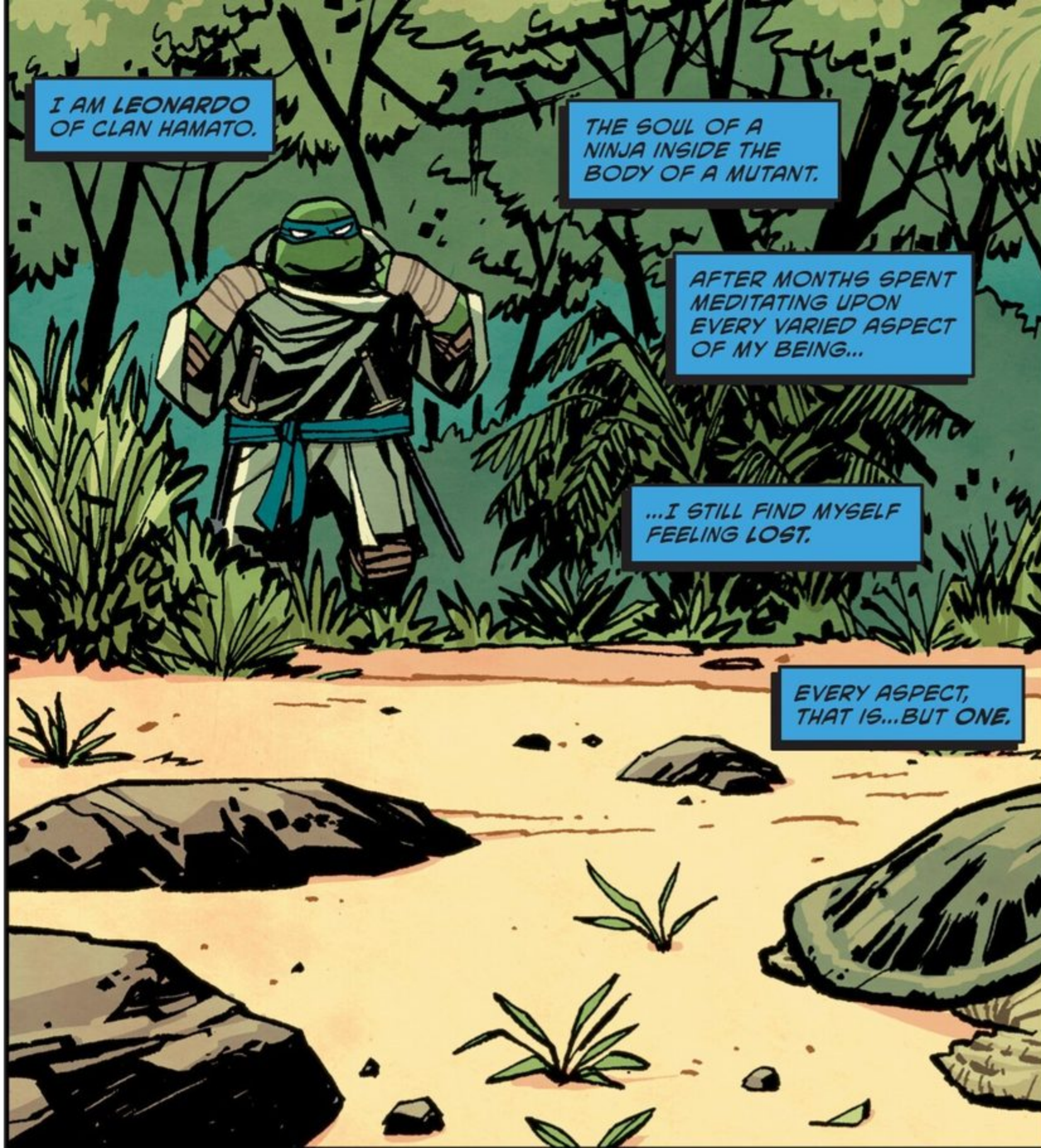
BODIES ARE CREMATED AND
THEIR HALF-BURNED REMAINS
WIND UP WASHING INTO THE RIVER.

OVER THE YEARS, THE SOFTSHELL TURTLES THAT LIVE IN THE MUD ALONG THE
GANGES DELTA HAVE COME TO DEVELOP A TASTE FOR SUCH...NECROTIC POLLUTION.

LOCALS SAY THE TURTLES CAN
STRIP A CORPSE CLEAN IN A
MATTER OF HOURS, LEAVING
NOTHING BUT THE BONES.

I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THIS
IS TRUE. BECAUSE I HAVE
COME HERE TO FIND THESE
TURTLES. AND TO FEED THEM.

FEED THEM SOMETHING
THAT HAS DIED.



I AM LEONARDO
OF CLAN HAMATO.

THE SOUL OF A
NINJA INSIDE THE
BODY OF A MUTANT.

AFTER MONTHS SPENT
MEDITATING UPON
EVERY VARIED ASPECT
OF MY BEING...

...I STILL FIND MYSELF
FEELING LOST.

EVERY ASPECT,
THAT IS...BUT ONE.



I HAVE DECIDED TO
SEEK ENLIGHTENMENT
HERE...IN THE ONE
PLACE ON THE PLANET
WHERE THE DEAD FIND
ETERNAL REDEMPTION...

...IN THE GULLET
OF A TURTLE.



I AM LEONARDO
OF CLAN HAMATO.

I HUMBLE MYSELF
BEFORE YOUR TRIBE
AND ASK ONLY TO BE
ALLOWED TO COMMUNE
WITH YOU, AS ONE
ANIMAL TO--



I...



THANK
YOU.
I
UNDERSTAND.

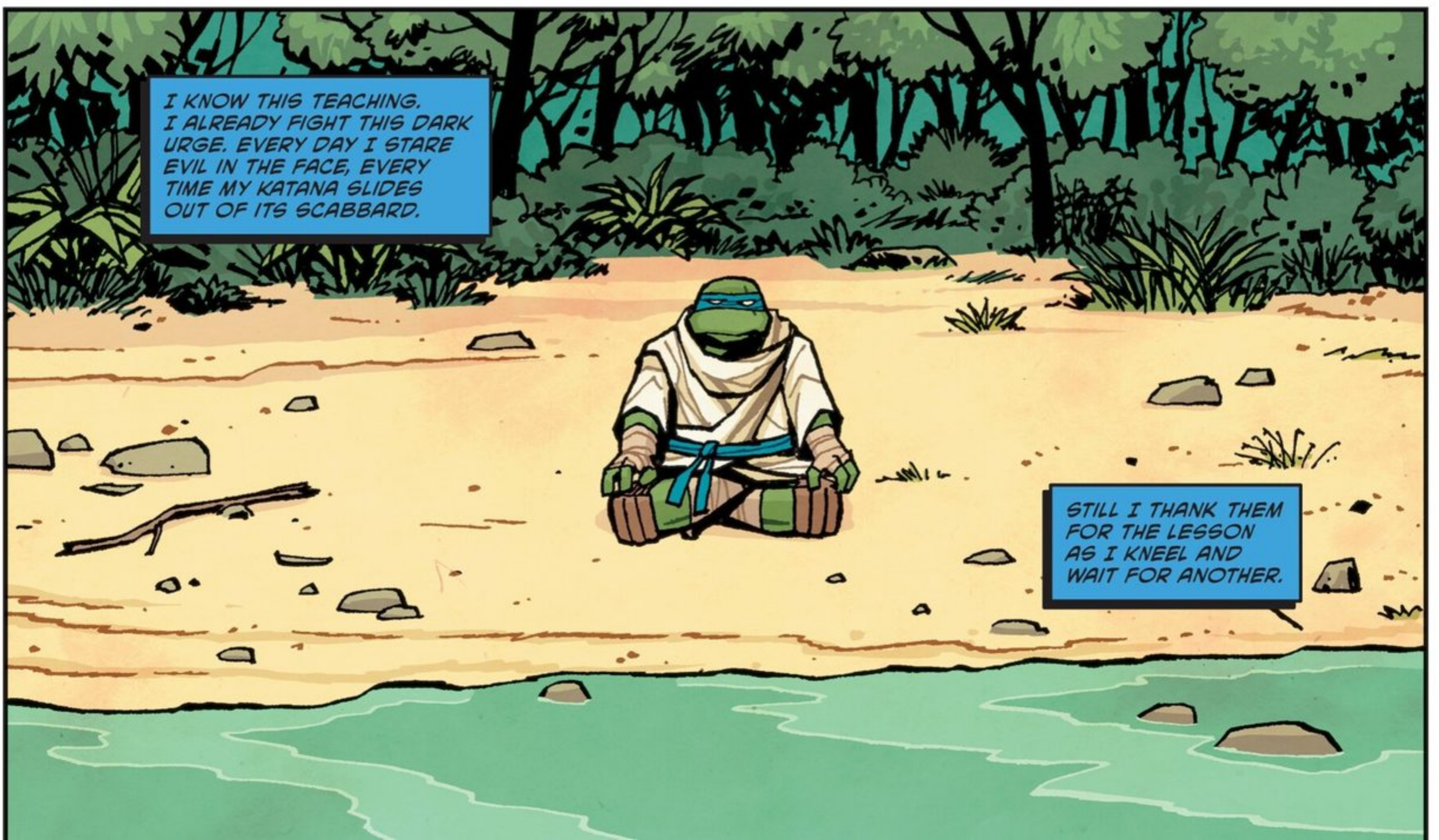


THESE TURTLES MAY
EAT THE DEAD.

BUT THEY DO
NOT KILL THEM.



THE FIRST
LESSON BEGINS.



I KNOW THIS TEACHING.
I ALREADY FIGHT THIS DARK
URGE. EVERY DAY I STARE
EVIL IN THE FACE, EVERY
TIME MY KATANA SLIDES
OUT OF ITS SCABBARD.

STILL I THANK THEM
FOR THE LESSON
AS I KNEEL AND
WAIT FOR ANOTHER.





I LOSE TRACK OF HOW MANY DAYS I KNEEL, AND THE TURTLES NEVER ONCE ACKNOWLEDGE ME.



UNTIL THEY DO.

HMM?



Owww!



THAT'S IT!
I GIVE UP!

THESE MUD TURTLES MIGHT AS WELL BE MY BROTHERS. TURNS OUT THEY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.



NONE OF THEM WANT ME AROUND.

I CAME HERE SEEKING DIRECTION. I CAME HERE TO BE SEEN.



AND SUDDENLY...
I GET MY WISH.

POACHERS.

THEY'LL SMUGGLE THE
TURTLES OUT OF THEIR
HOME AND SELL THEM OFF
PIECE BY PIECE, TO BE
CONSUMED IN THE FORM
OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES.

TURTLES EAT THE DEAD.
THE LIVING EAT THE
TURTLES. EVERYONE
SEEKING AN ELUSIVE
STATE OF GRACE.

SO I GUESS THE
QUESTION IS...
WHICH ONE AM I?

GOOD
HAUL. LET'S
GET MOVING.

WAIT...
DID YOU
SEE THESE
TRACKS?

LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF THEM.
THERE MUST BE A
BIG ONE NESTING
NEARBY.

I AM NOT A MAN. BUT
NOT TRULY A TURTLE.

ONCE I AT LEAST
HAD BROTHERS.
OTHERS LIKE ME.

A MASTER.
A MISSION.
BUT NOW...

...NOW I AM JUST
MORE ROTTING
FILTH FLOATING
DOWN THE RIVER,
WITH NO SUCH
THING AS GRACE
TO BE FOUND.

HOLY...

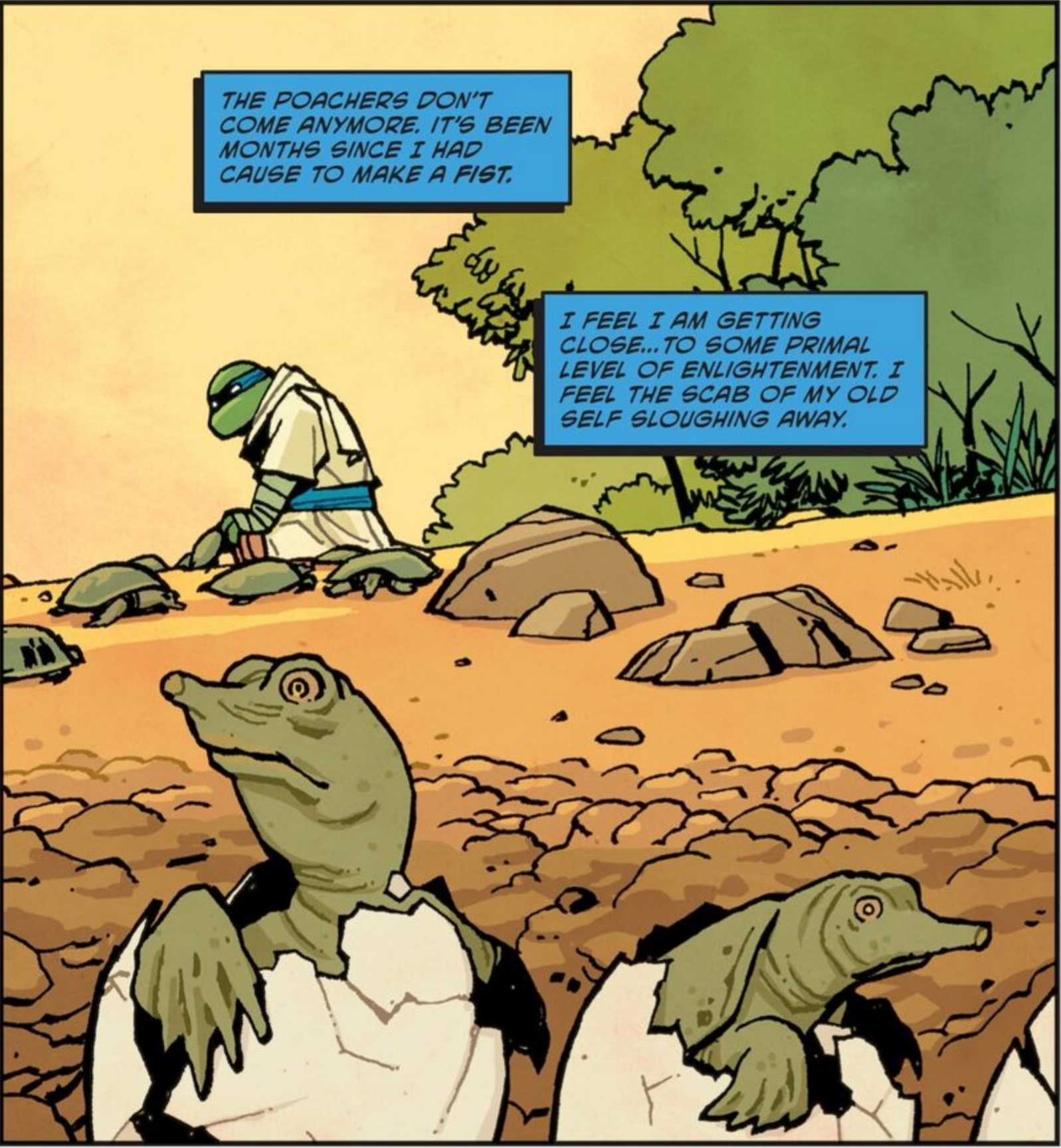
AAAGH!

THE SECOND
LESSON.



AFTER THAT...WE
MEDITATE TOGETHER...

...THE MAN-EATING
MUD TURTLES AND I.



THE POACHERS DON'T
COME ANYMORE. IT'S BEEN
MONTHS SINCE I HAD
CAUSE TO MAKE A FIST.

I FEEL I AM GETTING
CLOSE...TO SOME PRIMAL
LEVEL OF ENLIGHTENMENT. I
FEEL THE SCAB OF MY OLD
SELF SLOUGHING AWAY.



I DECIDE...THAT I
WILL STAY HERE
FOREVER. WHERE I
AM MOST NEEDED.

THAT I WILL GIVE
MYSELF WHOLLY TO
BEING A TURTLE.



I DECIDED ALL THIS...
YESTERDAY.

TODAY.

NO. NO TIME
TO FEED. WE
NEED TO GET
EVERYONE INTO
THE WATER.
NOW.

THEY'RE
NOT DEAD
ANYWAY.

DESPITE
HOW MUCH
THEY *DESERVE*
TO BE.



SCOUT TEAM
HAS MADE
CONTACT. ALL UNITS
CONVERGE.

I HEAR THE CHOPPERS IN THE
DISTANCE. THE BLOODHOUND
HAS FOUND THE TRAIL. NOW
COME THE HUNTERS.



GO IN
PEACE.

MAY THE
RIVER BRING
YOU SALVATION,
MY FRIENDS.



PEACE. ENLIGHTENMENT.
PURIFICATION. THESE
ARE THE STATES OF
GRACE I SOUGHT
ALONG THESE SHORES.



I HAVE
NOT FOUND
THEM YET.

SO I AM FORCED TO
GO IN SEARCH OF
SOMETHING ELSE.

THE FOOT CLAN DO
NOT COME SEEKING
ENLIGHTENMENT.

THEY HAVE MADE
THAT VERY CLEAR.

BECAUSE THEY
CAME HERE FOR
ME, THE BLOOD
OF TURTLES
STAINS THEIR
BLADES.

THEY HAVE FELLED THE
EATERS OF THE DEAD.

NOW THERE IS
NO PATH TO
SALVATION HERE.



EXCEPT THROUGH ME.



BUT WHAT AWAITS YOU
WON'T BE REDEMPTION.
WON'T BE ANYTHING
EVEN REMOTELY
RESEMBLING GRACE.



THE ONLY SALVATION
I HAVE TO OFFER...

...IS MADE OF HIGH-
CARBON STEEL.

SHIK



4 MINUTES 30
SECONDS LATER.



YOU MAY REACH A POINT
IN LIFE WHERE THE PATH
YOU'VE BEEN WALKING
SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS
BENEATH YOU, LEAVING
YOU TO FORGE A NEW
WAY THROUGH THE
WILDERNESS.



THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT I WAS
DOING HERE.



BUT SOMETIMES, IT
SEEMS... THAT THE
ONLY WAY FORWARD...
IS TO GO BACK THE
WAY YOU CAME.

TO UNSUTURE
AN OLD WOUND.

AND LET IT BLEED
ALL OVER AGAIN.

HERE END
THE LESSONS.





HELP... I CAN'T...



ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN HERE, I'VE BEEN WAITING... WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CLEANSE MYSELF IN THESE WATERS.

≡COUGH
COUGH≡



KRAK

FACIAL ID RECOGNIZED.



BUT NOW WHEN I LOOK, ALL I SEE... IS A FILTHY RIVER.



AUTOPILOT ENGAGED. STATE MISSION STATUS.

OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED. PROCEED TO NEXT TARGET.

UNDERSTOOD.



PROCEEDING TO
TOKYO, JAPAN.

I WAS LOOKING
FOR SALVATION IN
THE WRONG PLACE.



THE GRACE TO
BE FOUND HERE...
ISN'T FOR THE
LIKES OF ME.



YET, BECAUSE I CAME
TO THESE SHORES,
THERE ARE NOW MORE
TURTLES ALONG THE
GANGES THAN EVER.



MORE SALVATION
TO COME.



ONE BITE
AT A TIME.

TOKYO.

STOP
THIS, YOU
IDIOT!

GARRGH!

I CAME HERE
TO *HELP* YOU,
MIKEY!

I DIDN'T
ASK FOR
YOUR HELP,
RAPH!

WHY DON'T
YOU GO BACK TO
WHATEVER ROCK
YOU CRAWLED
UNDER MONTHS
AGO!

LOOK
AROUND! I'M
DOING JUST
FINE!

NO THANKS
TO YOU!

NO THANKS
TO *ANY* OF
YOU!







AW, MAN...
MY LIVING
ROOM.

MIKEY,
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

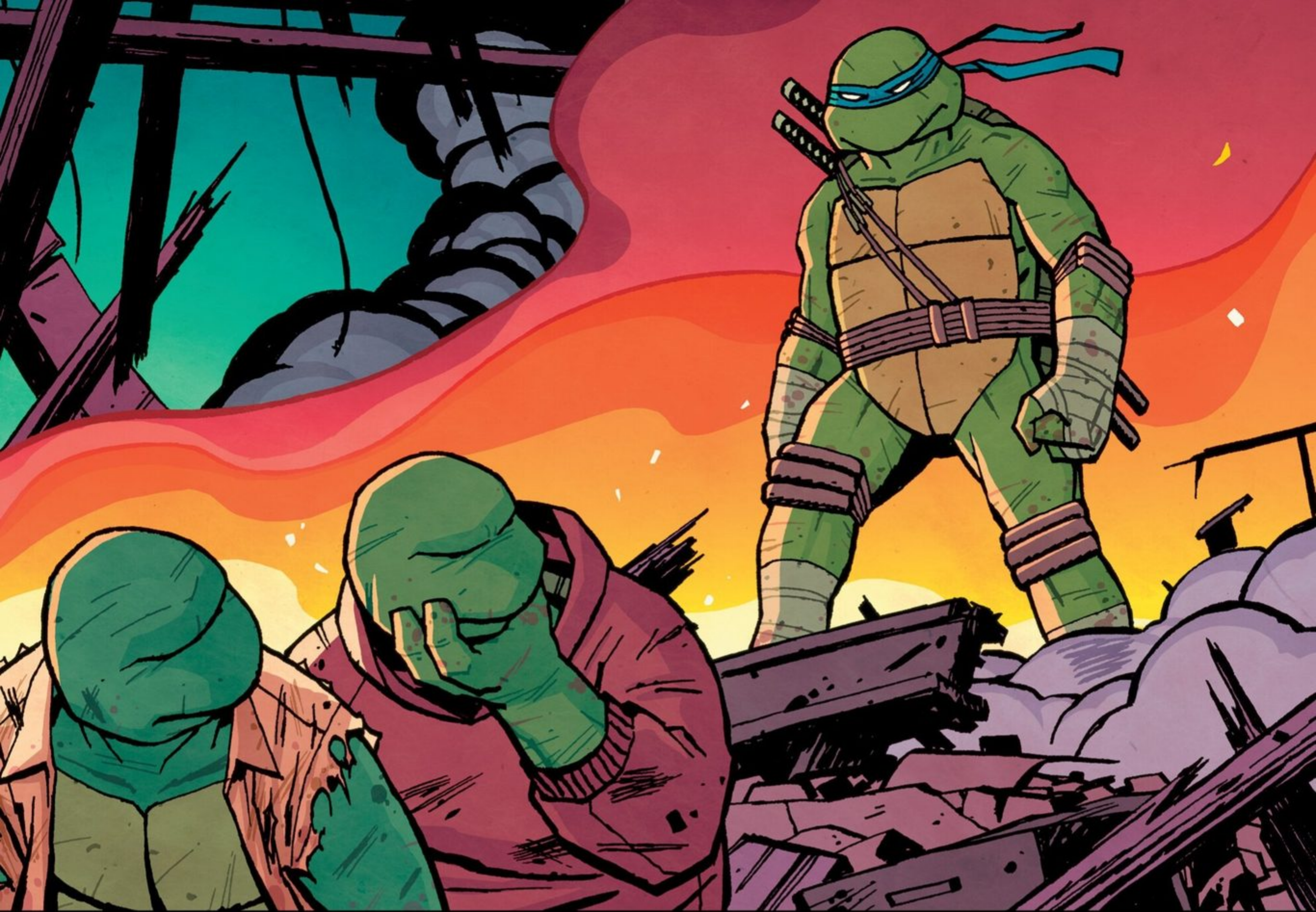
LUGH...



YEAH.

GAAGH! I
AM GONNA
TEAR YOU--

STOP IT!
BOTH OF
YOU!



GREAT. NOW THE JERKS ARE MULTIPLYING.

WAIT, LET ME GUESS, LEO. YOU'RE HERE TO TELL US HOW THIS NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF WE'D JUST LISTENED TO YOU.



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. WE NEED TO GO. MORE FOOT CLAN SOLDIERS ARE ON THE MOVE.



YEAH. SAYONARA, DUDES. I CAN HANDLE THE REST.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY'RE NOT COMING HERE.



THEY FOUND DONNIE.

OUR BROTHER'S IN BIG TROUBLE.

TO BE CONTINUED
IN NOVEMBER WITH...
DONATELLO!

NINJA TURTLES



JUST ONE TURTLE TO GO!

**WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE WHAT DONATELLO'S BEEN UP TO SINCE
TMNT: ALPHA, LET'S SEE WHAT FANS HAD TO SAY ABOUT TMNT #1!**

**Hello!! I wish all the TMNT team
a turtle-lous time!**

My name is L.J. Grover. I'm a writer and the biggest TMNT fan ever (I've done the experiments...all the data checks out). I was vacationing in the U.S. at the end of July and was able to grab issue #1 on the very first day of release (also *Alpha* and a bunch of *TMNT* trade paperbacks). As someone not from the U.S., to be able to get the first issue on the first day was a pretty big deal. It really made me feel part of the Turtle Party. In my country, it's impossible to get the comics on the first day. Maybe you can get them later if they got translated. For me, the best option is to get them in TPB or HC because shipping costs make it prohibitive to buy the single issues. I really like the first issue. The story is very grabbing and entertaining and makes me want to know what will come next. I found the art by Joëlle Jones incredible. I'm very excited for the new Turtle comics coming ahead. It sure looks like the TMNT are in hands as great as before. Also, I'm very thankful to IDW for reprinting the old Mirage comics and Image comics. Due to that, I have been able to complete my collection of classics stories, and that's very great for fans!

**Your turtle friend,
L.J. Grover**

L.J., everyone from all over the world is always welcome at the Turtle Party! It's radical to have you! Thanks for the kind words on the first issue and all the effort the terrific team at IDW has put into making sure that all the great Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comics from every era are easily accessible to fans. Our current era is a blast, but it's all built on the foundations of our terrific past comics.

Dear TMNT editorial,

I've loved the TMNT for as long as I can remember, and I have to say, this comic series feels like it can shape up to be one the greats with the amazing group of creators working on it (never thought Chris Burnham would draw the Turtles, but now that I've seen it, it's absolutely perfect). I hope it goes on for a good amount of time and it gives us readers some great stories. I also want to say that Raph is my favorite Turtle so I hope he gets to do some cool stuff.

—Diego

Diego, you Raphael fans are going to be very happy as the series continues. As are fans of all four Hamato brothers. This is going to be one of the best years the Turtles have ever had. We think Chris Burnham is pretty great, too, and you're going to think he's even BETTER once you see the incredible work he's done on issue #4!

Hi, IDW Turtle Team,

Wow! You have kicked things off with a bang for this new era of the Turtles! Issue #1 is fantastic. This is exactly the kind of action I feel I haven't read in a Turtles comic for a very long time. Well done to Aaron on starting with a very intriguing and action-packed story. The art from Jones was fantastic! My initial thoughts are that this comic made me feel the same way I felt when I read my first IDW Turtles comic that got me started on the series way, way back. It left me wanting more!

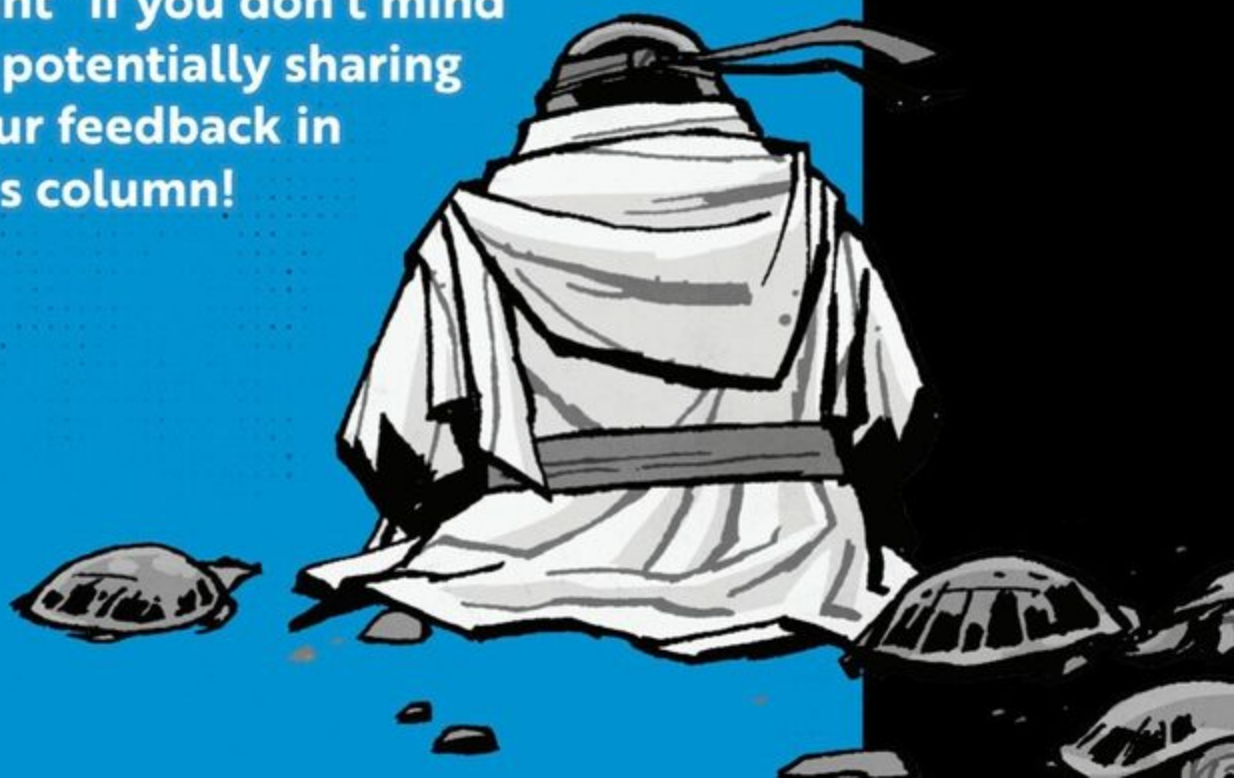
Also, a huge congratulations to everyone involved in the *40th Anniversary Comics Celebration*. Seeing all those different TMNT worlds revisited was amazing. In particular, seeing Chris Allan revisit the *Adventures* world and introduce the always sorely missed Casey Jones was incredible. It was Allan's art that first introduced me to comics as a kid, and I must say he is as great as ever. I've lived the first 40 years of the Turtles, and right now you have me very excited for what the next 40 have in store!

**Regards,
Shane Hero
Melbourne, Australia**

Shane, you're our hero for sharing your kind words with us about the relaunch! When you want an intriguing, action-packed comic, few do it as well as the great Jason Aaron. We're thrilled to have him writing *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. If you dug the *40th Anniversary Comics Celebration*, I have good news for you: there's even more material we didn't get to print. Keep your eyes peeled for the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 40th Anniversary* hardcover that has all the material you already loved from the issue and more we couldn't fit in originally!

**Have something to add?
Drop us a line at
TMNTletters@idwpublishing.com**

**Mark the email "okay to
print" if you don't mind
us potentially sharing
your feedback in
this column!**



NEXT ISSUE

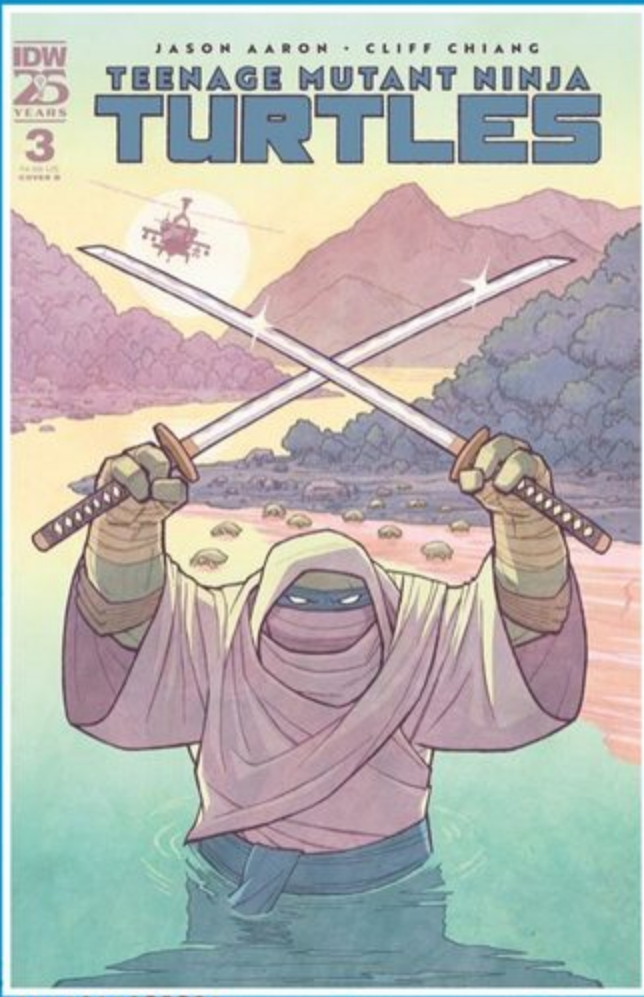


COVER A



ART BY
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

COVER B



ART BY
CLIFF CHIANG

COVER C



ART BY KEVIN EASTMAN
COLORS BY FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

COVER D



ART BY
J. GONZO

COVER E



ART BY
CLIFF CHIANG

RI COVER



ART BY DANNY EARLS
COLORS BY JÃO CANOLA

RI COVER



ART BY DARICK ROBERTSON
COLORS BY DIEGO RODRIGUEZ

RI COVER



ART BY
LEE BERMEJO

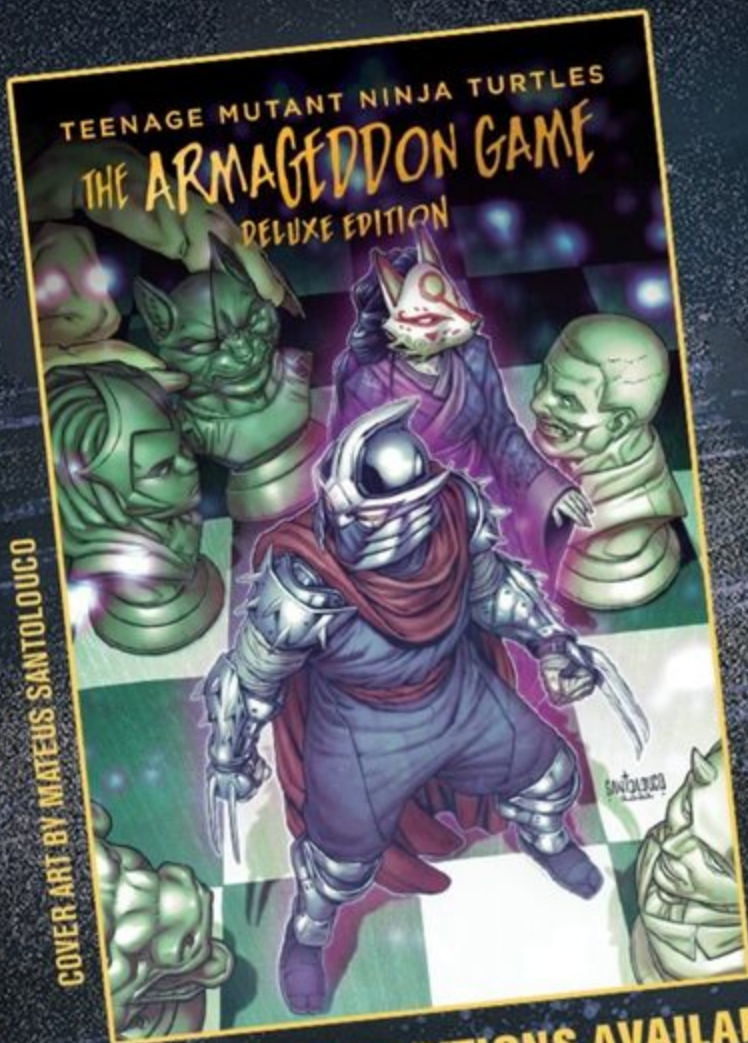
RI COVER



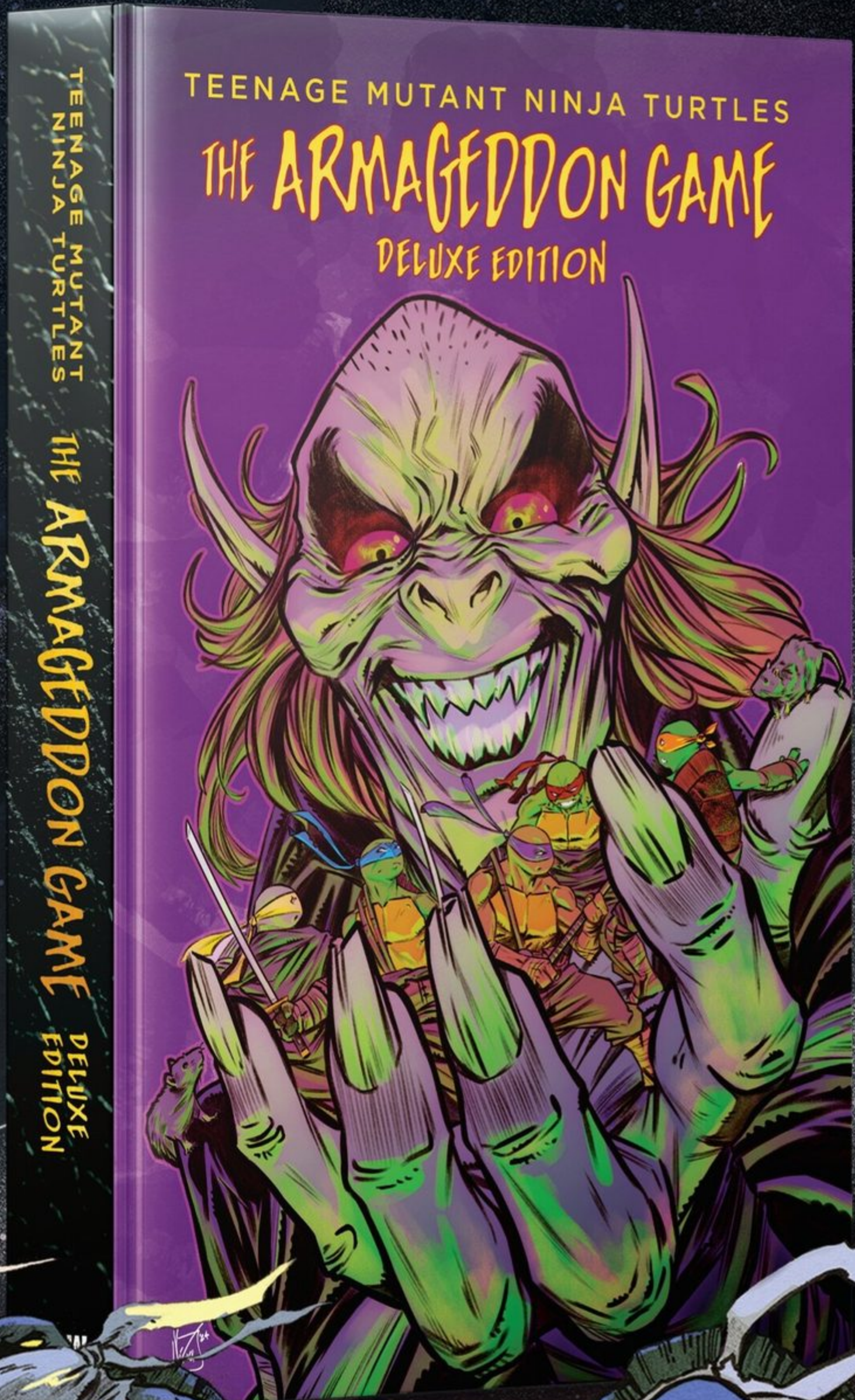
ART BY
LEE WEEKS

EXPERIENCE THE COMPLETE STORY OF TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES THE ARMAGEDDON GAME

In chronological order,
featuring every
prelude issue
and tie-in!



TWO EXCLUSIVE EDITIONS AVAILABLE!
SIGNED AND UNSIGNED.



NOVEMBER 2024

nickelodeon

IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

© 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Black, White, and Green is the most exciting TMNT comic in years.”
—COMIC BOOK COUPLES COUNSELING



Cover art by Declan Shalvey

An anthology of standalone TMNT one-shots in a new artistic style that brings together some of the most popular voices in the wider comics world.

NOVEMBER 2024

nickelodeon
IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

© 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES X NARUTO

It's the coolest ninja
matchup you could
have ever dreamed
of, had you dared!

The Heroes in
a Half Shell meet the
host of the Nine-Tailed
Fox in the crossover
everyone will be
talking about.

Cover art by Jorge Jiménez

VIZ
nickelodeon

IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

NOVEMBER 2024

© 2002 MASASHI KISHIMOTO / 2007 SHIPPUDEN All Rights Reserved.
© 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom
International Inc. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman.



Cover art by Peter Laird & Kevin Eastman

A HARDCOVER ANTHOLOGY FEATURING FOUR DECADES OF TALENT
HIGHLIGHTING FAN-FAVORITE TOUCHSTONES FROM COMIC BOOKS AND BEYOND!

nickelodeon
IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

NOVEMBER 2024

© 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman.



Some of my greatest memories in comics involve Alan Moore.

That's probably true for millions of people – Alan has written several of the most acclaimed comics and graphic novels ever made! But for 25 years, I've had the unbelievable privilege to work professionally with him and his titanic collaborators, as Top Shelf has distributed or published works like *From Hell*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Lost Girls*, *Voice of the Fire*, *The Mirror of Love*, *Unearthing*, *The Bojeffries Saga*, *Dodgem Logic*, *The Birth Caul*, *Snakes & Ladders*, *The Highbury Working*, *Angel Passage*, and more.

I'll never forget one particular trip to Northampton to visit Alan and his partner Melinda Gebbie as we prepared to publish *Lost Girls*, their monumental work of comics erotica about 19th-century fantasies and 20th-century realities, gender, loss of innocence, and the healing power of storytelling. They'd launched the series in the 1990s, but after the first few chapters, the project had gone dark. Now, after years of quiet progress, I found myself sitting in Alan's living room in front of a huge stack of Melinda's gorgeous, unlettered original art, sipping tea as Alan began to turn the 300 pages and narrate to me the entire story from start to finish. It was a masterful performance...for an audience of one!

Of course, Alan's words and ideas have continued to cast their spell on so many readers around the world. Since that day, I've been proud to see Top Shelf's editions of *From Hell*, *Lost Girls*, and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* all become *New York Times* bestsellers. Finally, with the conclusion of *League* Volume IV, Alan announced his retirement from comics.

But there was always one project lurking in the background, the magnum opus that was going to explain everything: magic, creativity, occult history, human consciousness, the universe itself, and why Alan devoted himself to an ancient snake-god. In this book, Alan and his magical mentor, Steve Moore (no relation), would open the doors of their minds, map out the place where all ideas come from, and invite the world to join them there. When this "grimoire" was first mentioned to me by Alan and Steve, I had no idea what form it was going to take...but I knew: whatever it was, it needed to be published.

Nearly two decades after that first conversation, *The Moon and Serpent Bumper Book of Magic* is finally real. Alan and Steve dreamed it up in their minds, they teamed up with a half-dozen brilliant artists both old and new, and **imagination became reality** – which, as you'll learn in the book, is exactly what magic is.

The Bumper Book of Magic tackles its topic from many different angles and formats, from essays to comics to diagrams to illustrated allegorical fiction and more. Like the best of Alan's work, it's astonishingly smart but remarkably accessible and down-to-earth. After all, as the authors explain, their goal is "to convey the sheer fun, colour, beauty and excitement of the magical experience...to you, our reader."

In October, the *Bumper Book* will fall into your hands. What magic will you make with it?

Chris Staros
Editor-in-chief, Top Shelf Productions



ON SALE
OCTOBER 23rd

